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DATE

Vote on gambling in city set for Dec. 2

 Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Romulus City Council members have approved a special election Dec. 2, 2003 to decide the question of casino gambling and horseracing within city limits.

This decision came at the study session Monday, scheduled to discuss possible ballot language for the two issues. The meeting was planned in response to petitions received at the Sept. 22 city council meeting containing at least 300 signatures requesting a vote on this issue. The petition signatures have been certified by the city clerk's office.

City Attorney Barry Seifman prepared four possible options for the city council to consider regarding the bal-

*"I want yes to mean yes
and no to mean no."*

Councilman William Crova

lot language.

Council members were adamant that the language used be straightforward.

"I want yes to mean yes and no to mean no," said Councilman William Crova.

Other members of council agreed with Crova, stating that the language on the ballot should be simple and to the point.

After some discussion, council members agreed on a proposal modeled after the Highland Park ballot language pertaining to the issues of casino gambling and horseracing. The ballot will consist of two questions for voters to deliberate.

The language will read as follows: "Question 1: Shall the City of Romulus allow casino gambling within the corporate limits of the City of Romulus, in accordance with the Michigan Gaming Control and Revenue Act 1997 Public Act 69 and/or the Federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act?"

"Question 2: Shall the City of Romulus allow horse racing, the attendant pari-mutuel wagering, and other gam-

See **Vote**, page 3

Metro World OK'd

 Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

The Romulus City Council has given the second reading of the Planned Development Area (PDA) for the Metro World Centre final approval.

Unanimous support was given to the 556-acre development that will be located on the west side of Vining Road between I-94 and Ecorse Road at the regular city council meeting Monday night.

The property will be used as a mixed-use space with the potential to bring retail space, offices, high-tech industry and inside entertainment to the city.

Councilman Bill Wadsworth, the only council member to comment on Metro World, stated, "I would just like to say that everyone involved with this document did a lot of hard work. It's not a perfect document, but I think that everyone got pretty close to what they wanted."

Police purchase new high-velocity weapons

 Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Since the Columbine massacre, police departments throughout the country have been making efforts to better prepare their cities and officers for such an event.

Romulus is doing the same.

The Romulus Police Department has recently purchased four additional Colt AR-15 high-powered military rifles at a cost of \$4,678 to add to the eight they already possess.

"These weapons are very accurate and high velocity, so they can be used from a distance, said Lt. John Leacher of the Romulus Police Department. "They are the weapon of choice for S.W.A.T. teams all over the country."

Officers are required to take a two-day course familiarizing them with the weapon. They go through several shooting exercises and are required to complete a qualification course in order to carry the weapon while on patrol, Leacher said.

This is the next step, according to Leacher, in forming a rapid response team in Romulus. Currently, Romulus works with downriver communities to form a

S.W.A.T. team. Each city contributes a few officers to the team, however this can cause problems.

"If we had a serious situation, like a Columbine, it would take 45 minutes to just assemble the S.W.A.T. team," said Leacher. "That isn't even getting them on the scene."

Having officers trained in how to use these new rifles allows Romulus to be better prepared in case such an event ever happens in the community, Leacher said.

"If our officers are trained, it allows our response time to be much quicker, even if it is only to contain the situation," said Leacher. "We have to be prepared for the worst situation and we have to be able to protect our kids."

Possessing these rifles also helps with the department readiness in matters of Homeland Security.

"We have to remember that Romulus encompasses Metro Airport and there are many hotels and in the future there could be establishments that hold thousands and thousands of people," said Leacher. "This could make us a target in the future. We will be better prepared with this training."



A haunting good time

Children enjoyed the Not-So-Scary Haunted Forest Saturday at Van Buren Park. Youngsters enjoyed hayrides, arts and crafts, face painting and a petting farm. Caleb Burnell, below, gets his face painted while Jake Daubert, at left, pets a donkey. Older children and adults can enjoy a haunted forest at the park from 7:30-10:30 p.m. every Friday and Saturday through Oct. 25. The cost is \$7 per victim. Van Buren Park is located off the South I-94 Service Drive between Belleville and Rawsonville roads. For more information call (734) 699-8921.



Water main repairs set to begin this week

 Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Ball Road and Beverly Road water main improvement construction is set to begin this week, weather permitting.

The limits of construction will be on Ball Road between Ecorse and Beverly, and on Beverly Road from Merriman 2000 feet easterly.

No traffic impacts are anticipated on Ecorse Road or Merriman and for the duration of

the project, Ball Road will be one-way northbound only. Beverly Road will remain open to traffic at all times.

It is projected that a substantial portion of the project will be completed by Nov. 15 and restoration activities will resume in early spring.

Flagging operations will be directing traffic around the construction on Beverly Road and may temporarily delay traffic for short periods.

Emergency vehicles as well as

*No traffic impacts
are anticipated
on Ecorse Road or
Merriman and for the
duration of the project...*

school buses requiring either of these routes will be accommodated throughout the length of the project.

On the job

Retired police chief honored for volunteer investigations

Scott Spielman
Editor

Sometimes, when someone is the victim of random theft or vandalism, there's not a lot a police department can do.

Of course, officers respond to complaints about stolen bikes, broken windows or minor destruction to property, but the reality is that departments don't have the resources to solve every random, minor crime.

"Without any leads, there's sometimes not much we can do about it," said Mike Sumeracki, chief of the Wayne Police Department.

In the City of Wayne, though, that's where Mike Frayer comes into play.

Frayer, a former police officer and retired chief from the Westland Police Department, often volunteers with the department to follow up on the cases that the paid members of the force don't have the time to pursue, according to Sumeracki.

He'll visit a home or business stuck by vandalism or return to a residence that reported missing property to talk with the homeowners and see if he can develop any new information or leads, Sumeracki said.

"With his police background, he knows the questions to ask," Sumeracki said. "It gives the citizens good feelings about the department."

Frayer has volunteered with the department for more than a year now. He will be given the John Valchine Award by the Wayne City Council next week.

The crime prevention award is named after a Wayne businessman, former owner of the party store on Howe and Forest streets who was killed in an armed robbery in 1986, Sumeracki said.

Frayer is now a consultant with the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA). He's been a Wayne resident since 1989 and said he likes helping out the department.

He said it's just a matter of going into the department every week or so, sifting through the paperwork that has been set aside for him, and then making some calls and trips to homes.

"Every now and then you get some new information and you can help bring something to closure," Frayer said. "The feedback has been good."

The son of a U.S. Border Patrolman, Frayer was born in New Mexico. His family moved into what was then Nankin Township in 1956, after his father was transferred to Michigan. He said the Detroit suburb was quite different back then.

"We thought it was the end of the Earth," he said.

Frayer graduated from Wayne Memorial High School in 1962 and served a stint in the army as a Military Policeman. He applied for a position in the Westland Police Department near the end of his tour of duty, and was part of the second wave of officers hired in 1967. He was promoted to sergeant after 10 years and lieutenant after 19 years. He retired in 1992 after serving briefly as police chief. He was only retired

for six months - which he said were among the longest six months in his life - before restlessness put him back to work. A self-described history buff and antique collector, he once owned and operated an antique store that turned into a chain of five stores throughout the metro area.

During the course of his police career, he said he's seen all types of crimes.

"It's amazing what people take," he said. "Someone even stole Santa Claus from my yard. You've got to be a real low-life to steal Santa Claus."

Among his favorite stories that come from his volunteer work at the Wayne department is one that didn't take a lot of involvement on his part. A year ago, a senior citizen called the department to report that someone had stolen a giant snowman from her front yard. When he visited the house to follow up, the snowman had returned as mysteriously as he had vanished.

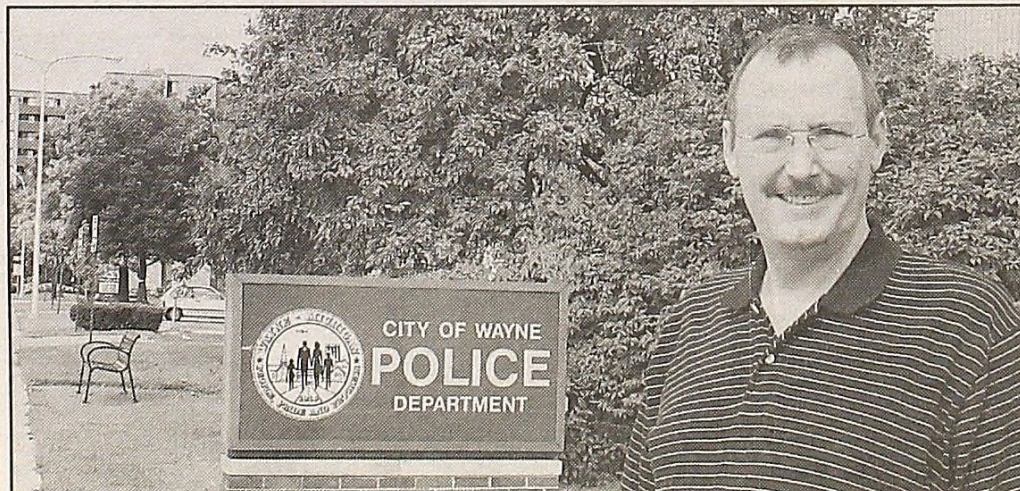
"People don't usually bring things back," he said. "I guess there's still some good left in the world."

Frayer will turn 60 in February but said he doesn't plan to slow down any time soon. He said he enjoys the work with the MMRMA because it allows him to help police departments throughout the state. It also gives him the time to help out the department in his hometown, which he said he intends to continue.

"Keeping busy keeps you active and young," he said.

"I'd rather work out than rest out, anyway."

With his police background, he knows the questions to ask. It gives the citizens good feelings about the department.



Mike Frayer, a retired Westland Police Chief, was honored with the John Valchine Award for Crime Prevention by the City of Wayne for his volunteer work with the Wayne Police Department.



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Battle of a lifetime

Parents continue to fight for life of afflicted son

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Marc Grant is not an average little boy.

At 4, Marc, and his parents, Michael Grant, a Romulus police officer and his mother, Jeannine, have endured more than most individuals do in a lifetime.

Health problems began for the youngster in the womb. Jeannine Grant was originally carrying twins, but miscarried one of the children at three months. When eight months pregnant, she was told by her doctors that there was some concern regarding Marc's failure to gain enough weight. His birth was induced one month before the due date.

"We knew right away that something was wrong," said Grant. "He wasn't breathing, his tongue stayed at the roof of his mouth and he wouldn't feed at all."

At birth Marc weighed only 3 pounds, 12 ounces and was released from the hospital just three days later.

"I was in shock when they released him, because he was so small and had so many problems," said Grant. "He wouldn't feed at all and he was very weak."

Within 24 hours Marc was back in the hospital, dehydrated. Marc was then given a feeding tube and sent home again.

The Grants were told that Marc was a "failure to thrive" baby, meaning he had no desire to eat. However, they were also told that nothing substantial was wrong and it would simply work itself out.

Throughout all of this, the Grants continued to take Marc to the hospital and insist that something was not right with their son.

"It was so frustrating, because we knew that something wasn't right," said Grant. "But they kept telling us that he was fine."

Finally an ultrasound was done on Marc's spine and a Syrinx, a pocket of fluid the size of a pea was found on his spine. The Grants were told that this was not unheard of and that it would dissolve itself. He was scheduled to come back for a follow-up MRI in six months.

At the follow-up appointment, the images showed the Syrinx that was once the size of a pea was now the size of a quarter. At only 1 year of age, Marc underwent surgery on his spine to release the fluid. The surgery was a success and the Grants were relieved thinking their nightmare was over. But it had just begun.

Marc was still having problems and they were getting worse.

"He was falling all the time, he was in and out of emergency rooms with Meningitis symptoms and he was constantly dehydrated with high fevers," said Grant. "We didn't know what was going on and we couldn't get a straight answer from anyone."

Grant was accused of everything possible during this time.

"I was accused of giving bad vibes which were causing him not to eat," said Grant. "I had to fight with doctors constantly to get him treatment for his dehydration."



Marc Grant

It was ridiculous."

After months of frustration and no answer as to what was wrong with their son, the Grants were referred to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

"We thought finally we would be able to get some answers," she said.

So, the whole family including the Grant's three other children got in the car and drove to Rochester, MN where they had made arrangements to stay at the Ronald McDonald house free of charge during their three week stay.

When the Grant family arrived, they were told that they had one too many children to stay at the house and were forced to spend \$90 a night at a local hotel.

"We are not rich people by any means, so this was a huge blow to us financially, but we had to do it for Marc," she said.

After weeks of testing, the Grants were finally given an answer to what was partially wrong with Marc. He was diagnosed with severe sensory motor peripheral neuropathy, a disorder that literally deteriorates the milen sheets that protect his nerves. This is what was causing Marc to have such weak limbs and no type of reflexes. However the larger problem was still lingering.

"We were crushed when they sent us home," she said. "It was kind of like, 'OK, thanks for coming, sorry we can't help, but we'll be in touch.'"

The Grants were at the bottom of barrel and didn't know what they were going to do when a phone call changed everything.

A researcher at the Mayo Clinic was examining Marc's blood for teaching purposes when he found something that could explain what was happening in Marc's little body.

There was a duplication on the short arm chromosome 17. This is a large region encompassing more than 30 genes.

"We finally had an explanation for everything that

had happened and we were ready to go on to a treatment, some way to help him," she said. "Then we were told that there was nothing that could be done and that he would be developmentally delayed."

This was not enough, they knew that something had to be out there to help their son. Jeannine Grant used the Internet and started searching, determined that she would not stop until she found something. Six months ago, she got a hit from Texas Children's Hospital.

There was a team of researchers studying a very similar condition at the Baylor College of Medicine. They were shocked when they saw Marc's condition, because it is the largest duplication ever seen in this region. There are only 13 people on record with this type of duplication. The researchers invited the Grants to come down to Texas, so Marc could participate in the study, but financially it was going to be difficult.

"We have gone through all \$80,000 of Michael's retirement fund, because insurance doesn't pay everything," she said.

So, the Grants and friends hosted a spaghetti dinner to raise the funds to travel to Texas.

"We were shocked at how many people showed up, it was amazing."

More than 300 supporters came to the dinner, including Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert.

"I am willing to do anything I can to support this family," said Lambert. "It is very sad, especially when it is a child."

The dinner generated more than \$2000, just enough to cover the trip and so the Grants drove down to Texas in late September.

"It was the first time I had met another family with a child who had a condition like Marc," she said. "For the first time I didn't feel crazy. It was a relief to have somebody else who had gone through this, we were destined to meet each other."

The Grants also received some much-needed hope while in Texas.

"We met a girl in Texas who has the same duplica-

tion, just not as severe as Marc and it was inspiring," she said. "Obviously she has some problems, but she was functioning very well. It gave us hope for the future."

While in Texas, doctors detected a severe defect in Marc's heart that had never been caught before. Now, at 4, Marc will have to undergo a 12-hour open-heart surgery to replace his aorta. Without the surgery, Marc will die.

Through all of this Marc has remained a fun, loving and energetic little boy.

"He is amazing to me," his mother said. "He wakes up every morning with a smile and goes to bed with one each night. He is incredible."

Marc is scheduled to undergo surgery at the University of Michigan Children's Hospital sometime within the month of October.

Donations to The Marc Grant Medical Fund can be mailed to 38524 Canyon, Westland, MI 48186.

It was so frustrating, because we knew that something wasn't right But they kept telling us that he was fine.

Michael Grant

I am willing to do anything I can to support this family. It is very sad, especially when it is a child.

Mayor Alan Lambert

Vote - Election will determine whether race track, casino gambling is allowed in city

FROM PAGE 1

ing within the corporate limits of the City of Romulus, in accordance with the Horse Racing Law of 1995, 1995 Public Act 279?"

Council members adopted the ballot language at the regular meeting which followed the public hearing.

The clerk's office is in the process of forwarding the certi-

fied resolution to the Wayne County Election Scheduling Committee requesting approval of the Dec. 2, 2003 date.

The last day to register to vote in the special election will be Nov. 3 and absentee ballots will be mailed out the same day.

The projected cost of the election will be close to \$16,000. Additional funds may be spent to publicize the election to the residents of Romulus.

"Information on the election will be sent to the public," said Mayor pro tem Randolph Gear at the City Council meeting. "We want our residents to be informed."

Residents on both sides of the issue attended the city council meeting and voiced their concerns.

John Clark, a Romulus resi-

dent residing in the Wincliff subdivision located directly behind one of the proposed sites spoke against the racetrack and casino.

"There are going to be more businesses being put out of business than coming in," he said. "What is this going to do to our property values? Nobody is going to want to live over there now. We need something on that land, what the citizens of Romulus need is shopping."

On the other side of the issue, Melvin Zilka, a 45-year resident of Romulus spoke in favor of the racetrack and casino.

"We have to listen to the people from the racetrack," he said. "We need the revenue and jobs the horse track would bring. It would be a catalyst and help everybody in the City of Romulus."

Local theatre to be 'haunted' during party

Scott Spielman
Editor

Tracey Spada, arts and entertainment supervisor for the Wayne Parks and Recreation Department, said she wouldn't be afraid if a few ghosts or goblins showed up to support the theater on Oct. 25.

In fact, she's rather counting on it.

The date has been set aside for the Ghoulish Gathering Halloween Bash, a fundraiser for the theater put on by the Stage Door fundraising committee.

"We're very excited about it," she said.

The party takes place from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Wayne

Community Center on Howe and Annapolis streets in the City of Wayne. Tickets are \$25 per person or \$40 a couple and include an open bar and hors d'oeuvres prepared by the students at the William D. Ford Vocational Center, a part of the Wayne-Westland school district.

There will be prizes for the best costume, music and dancing. The theater groups will also take part in the entertainment, Spada said.

"We'll do little skits throughout the night," she said.

Party goers may recognize many of the skits - they're the theater group's take on some of the more scary moments in entertainment history. Freddie Kreuger and

scenes from John Carpenter's *Halloween* will be reenacted, along with bits of *Dracula* and Shakespeare's *MacBeth*. But anyone not familiar with those or the other skits planned needn't worry, Spada said.

"Even if they're not recognizable, they'll still be entertaining," she said.

Several choreographed dances are also planned, including the traditional Time Warp.

"That'll help publicize *The Rocky Horror Show*," Spada said.

The Rocky Horror Show is the next major performance of the Stage IV community theater. Spada said rehearsals are going on now for the show, which opens on Nov.

7. It runs for three weekends with 7 p.m. performances on Nov. 7-8, 14-15, 21 and 22. There will be 2 p.m. performances on Nov. 9 and Nov. 16 and a special midnight show on Nov. 22.

The Ghoulish Gathering party is the second large fundraiser organized by the Stage Door

Fundraising committee. Members and supporters of the theater started the fundraising arm of the theater to help compensate for city budget cuts.

Tickets are on sale now at the Wayne Community Center. For more information call the center at (734) 721-7400.

Make A Difference Day activities set

Make a Difference Day, sponsored by Canton Leisure Services Department will provide two opportunities for community volunteers on Oct. 25, 2003, according to Pat Van Dusen, volunteer coordinator for Canton Leisure Services.

From 9 a.m. until noon, volunteers will help clean up Kenyon Cemetery located on the corner of Ridge and Gyde roads. They will rake leaves and help the grounds crew prepare for winter.

On the same day, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Canton Township will help the City of Wayne Goodfellows begin the No Child without a Christmas campaign at Heritage

Park. Volunteers are asked to bring their spare change to help fund the campaign. There will be a tent set up in Heritage Park where donations can be dropped off.

To find out about volunteer opportunities for community activities, events and projects call Pat Van Dusen, volunteer coordinator, at 734-394-5193.



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Art smart

Former state educator offers message of hope in painting

Her contributions to the current educational curriculum and philosophy of



Muriel Van Patten, front row, right, returned to Wayne for her high school reunion of the class of 1950.

“This college is about hope, hope for the future, for a good education to ensure



Muriel Van Patten spends as much time as possible painting at her Florida home. Her canvas, 'Embrace The Future', was recently donated to the Wayne County Community College District.

Following her graduation from Wayne High School in 1950, Van Patten majored in fine arts and art education at Eastern Michigan University. Her first teaching job was at Fenton High School where she taught art. Her career took her to Chicago and then briefly to Okemos, but she returned to the Wayne-Westland schools when there was a job opportunity in her home town.

"Arts are one of the key elements in unlocking a child's ability to learn," Van Patten said. "Anyone can look at a painting, but you need to be taught to see...anyone can listen to music, but you need to be taught to hear," she said. And it is those abilities, to look beyond the repre-

See **Painting**, page 6

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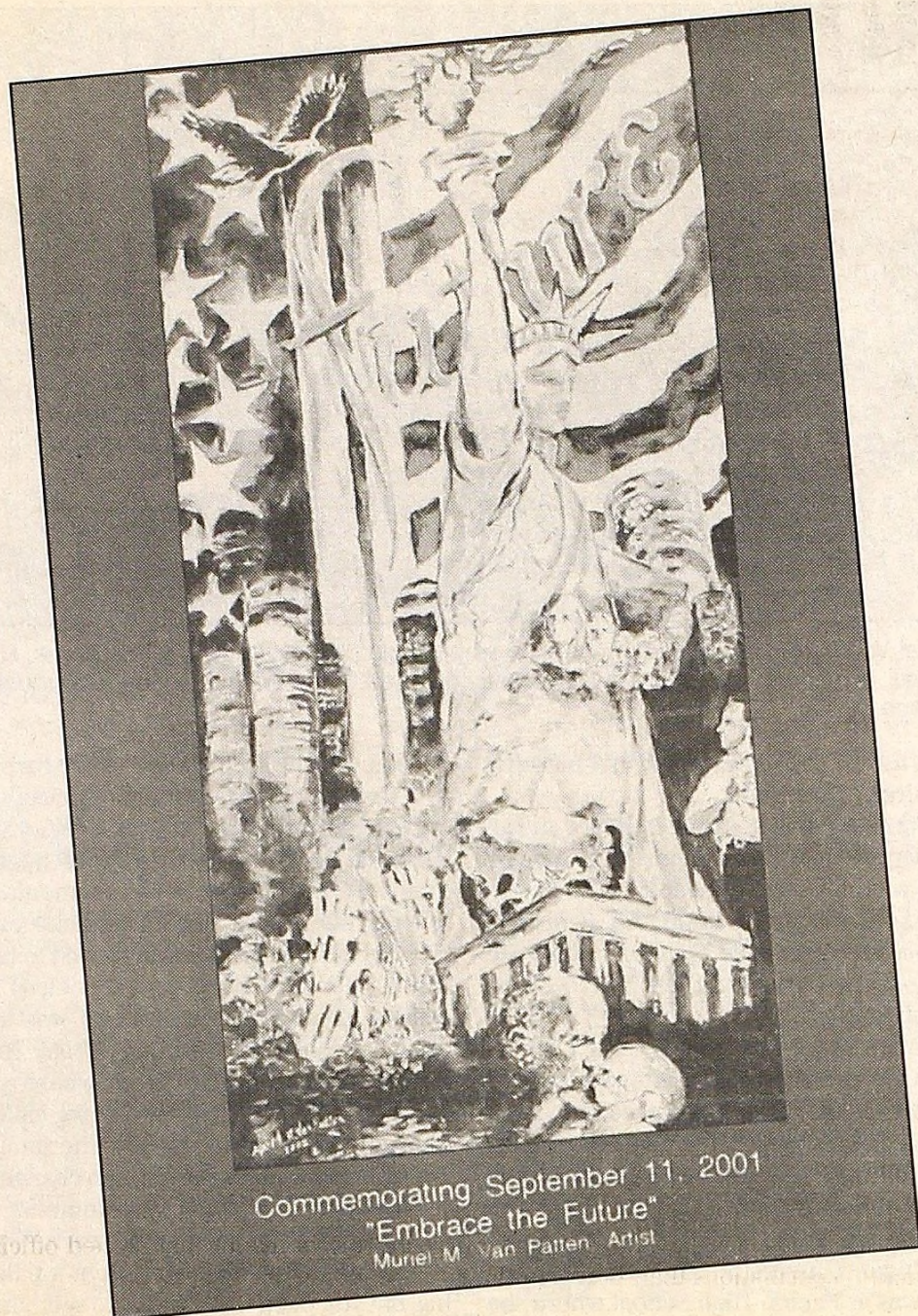
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Painting - Message is of hope for the future

FROM PAGE 5

sented image to the deeper meaning or to hear more than simple notes strung together that allows children and even adults to really begin to learn, she explained.

"Whether it's social studies or mathematics, the arts can unlock education," Van Patten said. "You know we all don't learn at the same rate or on the same track. I was a late reader, but the arts are the key. There is much more to learning than reading and math," she said.

Her philosophy obviously worked. She became Michigan State Director of Curriculum and Instruction in the mid-1980s. In that capacity she supervised not only art, but science and the entire school curriculum for the state. Previously, during the mid-1970s she was named Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction for the State of Michigan, responsible for the entire educational department including sciences and essential skills.

She retired from the State Department of Education in 1984, but was soon called back in service.

"When I retired, I was responsible for all education throughout the State of Michigan, including all bi-lingual and migratory education. I've had quite a career," Van Patten laughed.

The state called her out of retirement in the late 1980s to design the core curriculum for the schools. "I worked with a team of people, but it was a huge job. It required field testing and a great deal of work," Van Patten recalled.

When she had completed that task, and attempted to return to her painting, she was called on by the Detroit Public Schools to evaluate and put in place a

school improvement plan.

"That was a challenge," she said. "It was a huge job. We had to assess the situation and the needs and then devise an improvement plan to address those needs. With nine area superintendents at the time, it was a difficult but rewarding job," she said.

Now, again attempting retirement, Van Patten spends as much time as possible at her easel. And she has a couple of big projects planned.

"When I was in Detroit to donate the Embrace the Future painting, I met with the Chancellor (of Wayne County Community College District) Dr. Curtis Ivery," she said. "While I was in his office, I asked him if I might do a portrait of him. He was so gracious. He allowed me to spend time in his office sketching him while he worked," she said.

Van Patten said she is hoping to have the portrait of Ivery complete next year. She will work on the painting, taking photographs of the work as it progresses, and send them to her friend, Potter, for input and critique. The completed portrait will be donated to the college.

"I think it will be great fun," Van Patten said. The artist is leaving for France in the spring and will spend time painting in the gardens of Claude Monet, she said, something she is excited about doing.

But currently, she is involved in providing an opportunity for all the fourth-grade students in her Florida town to visit the symphony.

"Nothing motivates students more than art," she said. "It unleashes their imaginations and motivates them to learn. Music teaches them to listen, art teaches them to see," she said. "Art unleashes the imagination."

Nothing motivates students more than art. It unleashes their imaginations and motivates them to learn.

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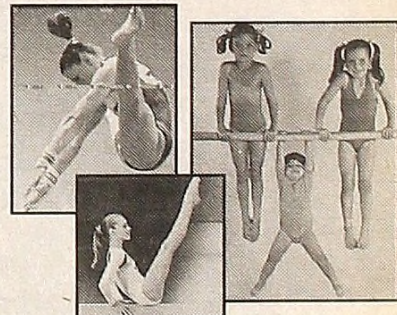
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OPINION

Money well spent

There were plenty of positive comments flowing around the new fire station in the City of Wayne Thursday night, and they weren't all about the food.

It was the night the city set aside to give the public their first real look at the new station, built on budget and finished early.

Citizens turned out in force to tour the new facility, talk with members of the staff and listen to the appropriate speeches from Fire Chief Rob Dahlman, City Manager John Zech and Mayor Al Haidous.

The speeches were plentiful and a bit long-winded, but who can blame the officials? After all, they managed to construct a top-notch facility with no cost to the city taxpayers – the project was funded through the Downtown Development Authority.

Many of the comments heard that night referred to how nice the facility looked, what an improvement it was over the previous facility, or the converted public works building that has served as home to the fire department for the past two years.

One of the words tossed around quite often was the word 'extravagant.'

In fact, the word was used so often that we were concerned that voters and taxpayers would get the wrong impression – that the fire department places style before substance and paid more than they had to for the new building.

That's not the case. It's true that the facility is among the best in the area – it was designed to be, with all the modern equipment fire departments need, enough living space to reduce feelings of claustrophobia and a training room that can accommodate the entire force and members from other departments, too.

Sure, it's nice, but is it extravagant? Not really. There may be some that say the firefighters don't need a television that large, or a kitchen that nice or chairs that comfortable. We say if a person is willing to run into a burning building and save a complete stranger, not to mention his or her belongings or pets, they damn well deserve a big television and a nice chair to put in front of it.

The members of the department involved in the design and planning of the facility and the architects who turned that input into brick and mortar should be congratulated – they did an exemplary job of balancing function and form, or providing all the best necessities and limiting the extra bells and whistles. They, along with the elected officials and community in general, have every right to be bursting with pride.

Deck deserves 'Yes' vote

Next month voters in the City of Northville will make a choice that will have a great deal of influence on the way development can occur in the future.

Part of that question will be decided when voters determine whether or not the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) should construct a parking deck along Wing Street, a choice given to them through a successful petition drive to have the item placed on the ballot.

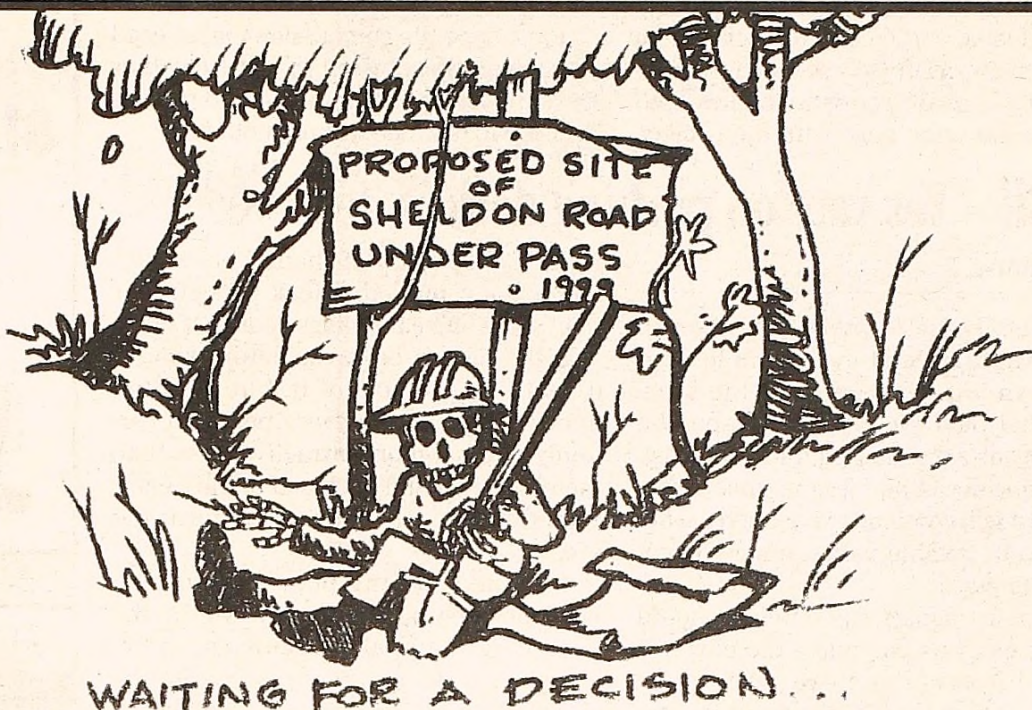
The circulators of that petition had questions about the proposed deck, the expense and the height, and were uncertain if it represented the best plan for downtown Northville.

We think it is.

In fact, we can see very few disadvantages to the plan as proposed. The key will be for officials in the city to adequately inform the public about the plan, particularly the point that it can be constructed at very little risk to them, and at virtually no expense.

The parking deck will be funded through the DDA, the develop-

See **Deck** page 8



Make a decision, once and for all

Sometimes it's easy to see why the legislative process has been compared to making sausages. It can be a slow tedious procedure that's not very much fun to look at.

Take, for instance, the on-again, off-again, on-again, off-again agreement between Wayne County, Plymouth Township, CSX Railroad and the City of Plymouth to construct a railroad underpass at Sheldon Road, just south of M-14. This thing has seen more breakups and reconciliations than Ben and J-Lo.

It's gone back and forth so many times that I've even forgotten whether or not I'm in favor of the plan. It depends on who I talk to, where I'm at or maybe if I'm waiting in line for a train to pass while my son, Henry, cheerfully rattles off the types and colors of the passing rail cars.

When you follow something like this for such a long time, a change comes over you, and I noticed it Monday night at the Plymouth City Commission meeting, when they decided to table the issue, again.

The first thing I notice is the inadvertent sigh I let out when Mayor Bill Graham reads the agenda item. Then it's the exaggerated slowness with which I click my retractable pen to start taking notes. It's almost as if it's a dream sequence; I can feel every scratch of the ballpoint on the paper, imagine the sound of the ink flooding out to fill the tiny, virtually illegible scratch marks. When I turn to a new notebook page, it sounds like a heavy canvas flag snapping in a brisk wind.

There are plenty of reasons this issue should take such a long time to decide. The cost to the com-

munities keeps changing, there are a lot of technical aspects like the procurement of rights of ways, planning traffic shifts, figuring out a way to move the water main without shutting off the city water supply for two years, not to mention the tricky design work involved in cutting a roadway beneath a working railroad.

It's probably also a matter that elected officials in the city and the township don't want to be the first to vote to officially kill the project, or revive it.

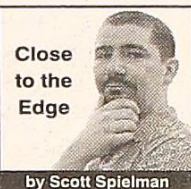
You add all of those factors into the current budget climate the city faces – they already spent the money they had set aside elsewhere and would need to tack the \$503,000 onto another street repaving bond – and it's easy to see why the project has taken so long.

But enough already. It's time to make a decision on the project, once and for all.

There are subtle signs that the administration in the city and elected officials there are just as impatient for a decision. In the informational packet put out on the issue for the meeting Monday, the date of the original agreement – November of 1999 – was circled. Commissioner Dan Dwyer only reluctantly agreed to table the issue again so city officials could meet in a study session. He said he wouldn't be willing to table it again, and openly wondered what new factors would come up in the study session that hadn't been discussed during the last four years.

Actually, a study session on the issue, set for

See **Decision** page 8



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

A little stupidity goes a long way

"You think it's easy?" I asked.
"Do I think what's easy?" I answered.
"Being stupid and greedy," I said.
"Yeah, I do," my alter ego answered with conviction. "The hard part is two-fold: recognizing your greed and stupidity, and then taking action to change it."

"Easier said than done," I snapped as I drove north on I-75, which is hard to do, when you're kicking yourself in the ass.

I'd just come from a casino, where within five minutes, I'd won \$750 in a no-win situation—playing slots.

"I'm outta here," I said. But before I could get to a door the whispering demons started. Like sirens from the days of ancient Greece, the seductive, suggestive murmurs grew louder.

"Jerry, Jerrrry, Jerrrrrrrry," all of the 2,166 slot machines were chanting, promising riches. And like the ancient Greek sailors, my head filled with promises of more, more, and MORE, I lost myself.

"I got a feeling," I said to myself stopping at a five-times machine. The feeling faded as the

monster gobbled up dollars like a starving child (which reminds me, I should have given some the winnings to charity.)

I pulled away and made a beeline for the door. "Jerry," the shout was loud enough to be heard over the casino noise. It was my friend, Jeff Murri.

Let me tell you about Jeff. He is a twisted person. The man is always up, always happy, and always running at 650 mph...but it doesn't seem to be destructive. He always seems to be laughing, and I do believe it's genuine. The man acts like he's got caffeine instead of blood in his system. He's always fun to be around. I was in trouble.

"All right, we'll go 50-50, give me \$20," I said matching it.

Ninety seconds later, we'd doubled our efforts and lost again.

"Here, this machine," Jeff said pointing to a 7-

See **Stupidity** page 8



This is life

by Jerry Stanecki

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Decision - Next underpass vote should be final

FROM PAGE 7

before the next city commission meeting, is a good idea, particularly if officials from Plymouth Township accept the city invitation and join them. Those two bodies need to be on the same page with the project,

and a joint meeting between the two is probably the only way to make sure they are.

I just hope the commission makes good on their promise when they get together for their next regular meeting, and put this decision to rest, one way or another.

Deck - Yes vote on parking deck is deserved

FROM PAGE 7

mental entity that captures increases in downtown taxes and uses them to fund downtown improvements. It's the same entity that paid for the streetscape, the same organization that paid for the existing parking decks, and it's the same viable entity that will continue to benefit from the increase in taxable value among downtown businesses.

That's one aspect city officials should make as clear as possible - the city isn't paying for the structure with a tax increase. It won't cost the average taxpayer any additional revenue.

Another important facet to the parking deck plan is, ironically, that it's not just a plan for a new parking deck. It also includes the relocation of the Edwards Bakery business, the removal of that building and then the reconfiguration of that lot to add additional parking places there. In short, the parking situation will ultimately be relieved in two city blocks.

It also wouldn't hurt to have big pictures of the proposed deck on hand when city officials try to inform the public about the

issue. Constructed of shaded brick with window cut outs, the deck looks better than some office buildings nearby. It's true that the façade of the structure relates directly to the cost of it, but the plan appears to be worth every penny; it certainly offers a more attractive view than the surface lot and back end of the Center Street businesses that now captures the eye.

Opponents of the plan question the need for a new parking deck, as well as the need for additional development in the downtown. Development is inevitable, though, in a thriving upscale community like the City of Northville. It makes sense to take advantage of a plan that's been well thought out and discussed during the past year.

Downtown Development Authorities were invented to help spark redevelopment in aging urban areas. Part of that entails handling the parking needs of the business community; it was, in fact, a goal put into the original agreement. Now is the time to provide another piece of the parking puzzle. Northville voters should support the proposed parking deck.

Stupidity - Learn from mistakes and change

FROM PAGE 7

7-7 machine.

"No, that just paid off. Let's try this one," I said dumping coins into it. Oh, now it was a \$5 machine. Click, click click, we lost.

While we were feeding the sucker machine, a rather stout fellow waddled up to the 7-7-7 machine Jeff recommended and popped into two coins. Bong-bong-bong. The machine roared and paid out \$500.

"You were saying," Jeff said.

I felt terrible.

"I should have listened to you..."

BONG-BONG-BONG-BONG. The same machine was showing three red 7s and the payoff was \$800.

"That's \$1,300 in five minutes," Jeff rubbed it in.

"I'm outta here," I announced, meaning it this time.

In the car, I counted my money. Only by the grace of the good Lord, I'd gotten out of that den of inequity with \$150 more than I'd started with. I'd won that much after losing \$600, I would've, should've, could've had if I wouldn't have been so damn greedy and stupid.

I know none of you relate to any of

this, but I'm sharing it with you just in case you ever find yourself in this type of situation.

Know when to walk away. I recalled the words of my father, who said, in any situation dealing with money, always remember, "Bulls and bears, but not pigs." When you become greedy, he always said, you become a pig and always lose.

The hardest part of life is not so much the learning of lessons, it's the taking of action to change self-defeating ways into self improving gifts.

By the time I got home, and into the shower to wash off the casino smoke and stink, I was done kicking and thanking the good Lord for what I do have: the ability to change.

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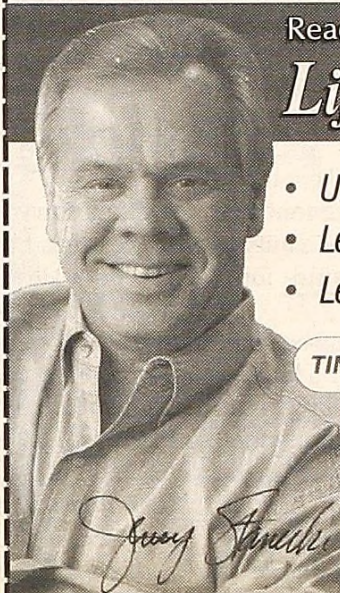
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WELL AWARE

Oakwood-Annapolis plans new wing, community outreach programs

Scott Spielman
Editor

A new \$24 million wing at the Oakwood Annapolis hospital isn't the only change members of the community will see at the regional health center.

Plans are in the works to increase the medical education at the hospital and bolster community outreach programs, according to Tom Kochis, division president of Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne.

"We're really trying to evolve the hospital," he said.

The new programs reflect a major investment in the community, and the resolve of the Oakwood system to transform the hospital on Annapolis Street into a top-notch community hospital, Kochis said.

The new wing should be complete in December and start servicing patients in January, he said. It features seven new operating rooms with modern enhancements that are unique to western Wayne County, he said. The new, computerized operating tables will give surgeons the ability to control everything from

the lighting in the room to the types of charts and graphs seen on the computer screen without leaving the side of the patient, he said.

"We're building the technology right into the tableside," he said. "It's a neat concept."

The new operating rooms will

"We don't want to turn anyone away in the community," he said.

Part of that service includes bringing on more staff to serve people, and that is in the works, as well. He said that the hospital would seek only the best doctors to fill the need.

The new facilities follow a service first philosophy that Kochis has helped start at the hospital. It already allows patients to order personalized food from a menu as if they stayed at a hotel, rather than a hospital.

He said other new services started earlier this year, too, including a Cardiac Calcium Scoring procedure that allows doctors to test for potential heart disease by hooking electrodes to a patient's chest and to determine the amount of calcium built up in arteries. Kochis said, to his knowledge, Oakwood Annapolis Hospital was the only western Wayne County hospital to offer the service – even other hospitals in the Oakwood system don't provide it. The hospital offers other opportunities for stricken patients, too.

"
We're building the technology right into the tableside. It's a neat concept.
"

Tom Kochis

allow for an expansion of the emergency room at the hospital, too. An additional nine gurneys will be added to help the hospital meet the goal set forth in recent promotional literature, which guarantees a patient will see a physician in less than 30 minutes. He said space is at a premium in a hospital that already serves about 45,000 patients a year.

See Oakwood, page 10

Students are cautioned

By Dr. Karl Tarkanyi

School bells have rung and children are back in class...and many of them may be jeopardizing their health in the process.

Backpacks are a real threat to children who tend to carry too much weight in them or carry them improperly.

The increase in size and weight of our children's backpacks has made them a hazard to our children's health and can cause some painful back and neck problems.

These problems can be detected early and corrected with proper chiropractic care. But preventing the problems isn't difficult.

Recent studies indicate that 55 percent of students carry more than the recommended national guidelines of 10 to 15 percent of their body weight in a backpack.

To prevent or reduce the risk of backpack injuries, children and parents need to follow some guidelines set by the American College of Sports Medicine.

Wear the backpack properly. Distribute the weight properly. Put the heavier items on the bottom and against the back to keep the weight off your shoulders and maintain a better posture.

Wear both shoulder straps unless your pack is designed for use on one shoulder. Carrying a heavy backpack using one strap can shift the weight to one side, which can lead to neck and muscle spasms, low back pain and poor posture.

Choose a backpack with thickly padded shoulder straps. Non-padded straps dig into the shoulders causing pain due to compressional loading of acromio-clavicular joint and stress on the trapezius muscles.

Choose a backpack with a lumbar support. The lumbar cushion will redistribute weight to the lower extremities, creating a fulcrum that facilitates an upright standing position and good posture that is essential for proper spinal health.

Learn to lift the backpack correctly. Face the backpack before you lift it. Bend at the knees and lift with your legs, not your back. Keep the pack close to the body. Carry only what you need. Every extra item adds weight.

(Dr. Karl E. Tarkanyi, operates the KET Chiropractic Center at 22120 Novi Road in Novi. His office can be reached at 248-348-5350.)

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Plymouth accounting system deemed correct

Scott Spielman
Editor

Officials from the Michigan Department of Treasury said that Plymouth Township uses an "acceptable" practice of accounting for building fund revenues that carry over to a new calendar year.

The letter mailed to township officials last week is a clarification of an earlier letter that alleged violations of Public Act 2 of 1968 regarding construction fund activity.

"We don't see any problems with what is occurring," said Terry Stanton, public information officer for the Department of Treasury.

The issue arose several months ago when township resident Don Schnettler questioned the way the township accounted for excess revenue generated through the building and engineering department.

Recent township audits have shown that in some cases the department brings in more than \$200,000 more than expenses. Those funds are placed into the general fund, and Schnettler contended they were being used illegally to fund the construction of the new township hall project. Schnettler brought the first letter and

The department is not involved in any investigation Nor does it intend to be.

Terry Stanton

his background investigation to the township board of trustees on Sept. 23.

"You guys should not be allowed to build a township hall," he told the board. Schnettler, and his group, Citizens for Responsive Government, pushed through a right of referendum to have the funding of the township hall placed on the ballot. That election will take place on Nov. 6.

Township Supervisor Steve Mann said he never believed the first letter should have been sent by the state.

"Obviously, we're disappointed," he said. "They didn't get the full information."

He said he had talked with state officials and expected a new letter shortly. That letter was mailed late last week, he said.

The new letter stated that a separate fund wasn't required as long as the fee structure is not intended to recover the

full cost of the enforcing agency, and as long as the municipality has the ability to track the costs and revenues of the activity. Building departments charge fees for requests for site plans, inspections and several other activities and use that revenue to fund themselves.

Treasurer Ron Edwards said the township can, in fact, track the funds. He said the money left over every year is from pro-

jects that get started during one calendar year but finished in a different one. The township expense typically comes when the project is complete and inspections begin.

"We're not doing anything different than anyone else," he said.

Stanton said another misrepresentation is that the state is investigating the accounting practices of the township.

"The department is not involved in any investigation," he said. "Nor does it intend to be."

Township Trustee Abe Munfakh said when Schnettler distributed his packet to the board last month, it was the first time he had heard of the issue.

"I'm concerned why we didn't get a copy of these letters," he said. "I'm surprised at that."

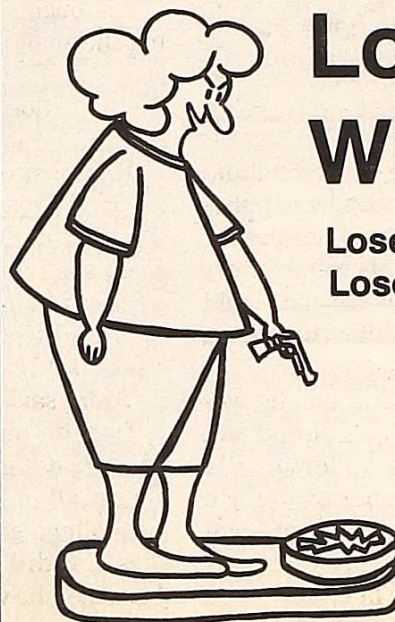
Oakwood

FROM PAGE 9

"In those rare circumstances when the test finds a patient is that unstable, we've got the operating rooms to back it up," Kochis said.

The Oakwood Health Care System acquired the hospital in 1989, and has

since strived to transform it into a respected community facility, he said. The new operating wing will be another step toward that goal, but not the last one. He said, if the economics work out, the new wing is just the first phase in a major expansion and renovation plan. He said the hospital may plan another \$20 million investment in the hospital through a renovation of the existing structure, but that is further down the road.



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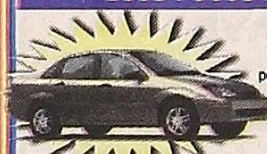
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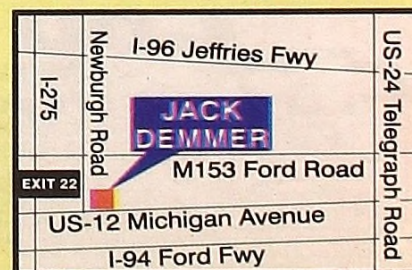


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The big one

Local woman marks 100th birthday

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

1903 was a momentous year. The Wright brothers flew, Henry Ford founded the Ford Motor Co., and Theodore Roosevelt served as President. Amid the events of the year, the Bock family of Gerard, IL. quietly celebrated their own event—the Oct. 4 birth of their daughter, Chrystal.

One hundred years and 17 presidents later, flights take off regularly from airports around the world, Ford remains a key player in the automobile industry, and Chrystal Bock England's family continues to celebrate her birthday.

England, a resident of Plymouth, celebrated her 100th birthday on Saturday with a family party at her home in Independence Village.

"I didn't invite anybody outside the family. It got to be too many. Everybody wants to come because it's unusual to have a 100th birthday," said England. She hosted a separate party for her friends.

However, England is not the first in her family to reach the 100-year mark. She says that her maternal great-grandfather also reached his 100th birthday.

Family, past and present, is first in England's thoughts. She

says she has a 77-year-old son, two daughters, ages 74 and 72, nine grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren. She delights in telling the story of her grandfather's emigration to the United States as a stowaway on a ship from Germany. Only 15 or 16

"I didn't invite anybody outside the family. It got to be too many. Everybody wants to come because it's unusual to have a 100th birthday."

years old at the time, England says he fled to escape compulsory military training in Germany.

"He came to this country very young, and he enlisted and fought in the Civil War, for the Union forces," said England.

According to England, he was captured during the war, and sent to the infamous Andersonville Prison as a prisoner of war. He escaped with the help of local sympathizers, and made his way back to the Union line.

"He lived to be on the advance to the sea, (General Sherman's famous walk to the sea," said

England. She seems equally as proud of her father, a coal miner turned grocer.

England's first love was her piano. She says she studied music for 10 years, beginning at an early age, which paid off once she reached high school.

"When they had only silent movies, I played for them, and followed a script. I played soft music if it was a love scene. If its galloping horses, I played something else that would go with the scene, whatever it was. I made \$1 a night," said England.

Although she still enjoys playing the piano, England says she rarely does it anymore because she "just doesn't have the energy."

Her musical talent also helped her land a teaching job in Illinois that spanned about two years when she herself was still a high school student.

"I had to go from school to school (so) I bought my first Ford for \$567," said England.

Despite her teaching career and her delight in the fact that almost all of her grandchildren are college graduates, England says she did not go to college (because) she was "too interested in her boyfriend," the man she later married.

They married in 1922. She was



Chrystal Bock England, seated, celebrated her 100th birthday with her family in Plymouth last week.

a month shy of 19 and her husband was three years older. Following her husband's death in 1960, England was forced to fend for herself. Too young to draw Social Security, she applied for a position in the office of a local hospital, which was not hiring at the time.

"Only a day or two after that I had a telephone call from a member of our church, who ran the Co-op Credit Union in Dearborn (offering me a job)," said England.

England worked there for eight years until she was old enough to retire.

"I always said that job was a

godsend. Here I was almost 60 years old, having a job offered to me. How many people can say that?" said England.

England credits her longevity to the power of positive thinking.

"I'm a positive person. I'm not a worrywart because I think the things you worry about, you can't stop, and half the time they don't even happen," said England. "I think its too bad when old people think they have to gripe about everything all the time. It doesn't solve anything, and listen, if you're a happy person you're an inspiration for somebody. You can help somebody else get along"



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61. Misc. Items

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Craft fair to provide scholarships

Sharon Emeigh
Staff Writer

Anyone who wants to purchase crafts and help students can do both at once next week. The Delta Kappa Gamma sorority will host a craft sale fundraiser on Oct. 18. This will be the 17th annual event sponsored by the group to help fund student scholarships.

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., more than 100 juried crafts and home vendors will be displayed at West Middle School, located on the southwest corner of Sheldon and Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth Township. The proceeds from this event will fund the Delta Kappa Gamma scholarship program for Plymouth-Canton high school graduates pursuing degrees in education, according to Jan Way, chairperson of the craft

show.

The Plymouth-Canton chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma has more than 60 members, according to Debbie Maloni, a member of the society. The chapter, established in 1982 by women educators throughout the community, is dedicated to increasing educational opportunities for many Plymouth-Canton Community School students, said Maloni.

In the past, they have generated between \$12,000 and \$14,000 in scholarship money at the craft fair, according to Way. There is a \$2 admission fee, however the majority of the money for the scholarship program comes from the vendors, who pay for spots at the show, Way said.

Some of the crafts available include: jewelry, pottery, home-made soaps and gift baskets,

blown, stained, infused and slumped glass, decorative paintings, textiles, various clothing designs and Christmas ornaments.

Way said that the organization has tried something new this year by inviting some vendors, which they hope will attract a younger crowd. Longaberger Baskets will be there as well as several different gourmet food vendors.

The majority of the crafts featured at the event are handmade by local artisans, according to Maloni.

Also, a charity from El Salvador will have a spot where they will sell crafts hand-made by artisans in villages of El Salvador. The money they make will go back to their community, according to Way.

The Craft and Home Fair is the largest fundraiser of the year for

Delta Kappa Gamma.

"The more we make, the more we give," said Way. "We just think it's a really good cause."

Graduates from any of the Plymouth-Canton Community high schools enrolling in an education program at the university level are eligible for the scholarship, said Way.

She added that Delta Kappa Gamma guarantees the students who receive scholarships five years of support, as that is the average amount of time it takes to obtain a degree.



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Alumni sought for Wayne homecoming

Alumni from Wayne Memorial High School said they're hoping for a big turnout tomorrow for the annual high school homecoming parade and game.

Heather Robertson, who graduated in 1988, along with graduates Ginger (Wade) Cook (1961), Paul Cook (1959), Glen Maddox (1961), Pat Docuson (1962) Janet Petrinic (1962) and Gary Vaught (1961) said they're still looking for graduates to show up behind alumni arena to take part in the annual parade.

Robertson said she's hoping for a good showing from her class, because it will be the 15th anniversary of their graduation this year.

"We want to make a big party out of it," she said.

The parade begins at 5:30 p.m. behind the alumni arena building at the southwest corner of the school, according to Robertson. The theme this year is 'A night at the Beach.'

The game starts at 7 p.m., when the Zebras host the Salem Rocks.

Robertson said she hopes to get a lot of alumni out to help support the team, which is having one of its best seasons in recent memory.

"Maybe that'll give them some incentive," she said.

The group will meet at 3 p.m. on Friday at the Village Coney Island, the site of the former Blazo's Restaurant at Wayne and Cherry Hill roads.

For more information, the group can be reached through www.classmates.com.

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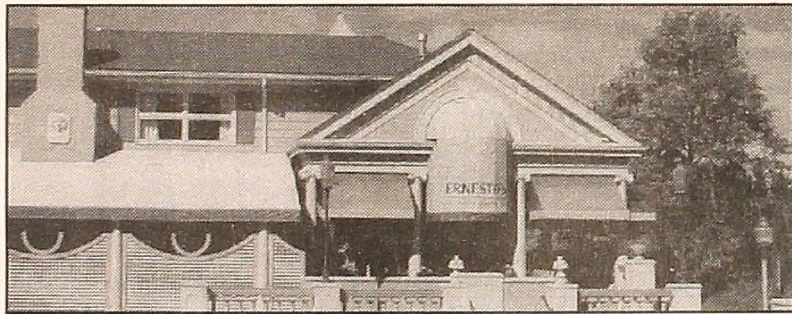
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OBITUARIES

SHROPSHIRE, Nicole T.

Nicole T. Shropshire, 18, of Sumpter Township, died Sept. 27 at St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center in Toledo, OH.

Among her survivors are her parents Everett and Linda Y. (Shropshire) Shoats of New Boston; brothers, Randal Shropshire of New Boston, Russell Shropshire of Ypsilanti, Everett Shoats of Inkster and Robbie Shoats of Inkster; a sister, Christina Montgomery of Ypsilanti, and her grandparents, Everett Shoats of Detroit and Henrietta Watts of Westland.

Miss Shropshire was a 2003 graduate of Belleville High School and was a member of the Sumpter Social Civic Club.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home.

Interment was at Marble Park Cemetery in Milan.

MELIDOSIAN, Rose E.

Rose E. Melidosian, 62, of Belleville, died Oct. 1 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Among her survivors are her husband of more than 40 years, Harry Melidosian; children, Brian (Susie) Melidosian of Belleville, Mark (Susan) Rizzo-Melidosian, also of Belleville and Lisa (John) Wackerle

of Ann Arbor; sisters, Patricia Adamusik of Romulus and Chris Winters of Belleville; brothers, Ron Radja of Belleville and Donald (Marsha) Adamusik; a step-father, Edward Rajda of Belleville, and eight grandchildren.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with Father Thomas E. Cusick officiating.

Interment was at Knollwood Cemetery in Canton Township.

WOLTERS, Robert Dickey

Robert Dickey Wolters, 86, of Belleville, died Oct. 4 at home.

Among his survivors are his children, William E. (Phyllis) Wolters of Belleville, Janna L. (Rick) Cresswell of Spokane, WA and James R. Wolters, also of Spokane, and grandchildren, Scott Cresswell, Christine Cresswell, Katie Wolters, Ben Wolters and Julia Wolters.

Mr. Wolters served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II in the Pacific Theatre, Third Raider Battalion.

A memorial service date will be announced.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

MASON, Connie L.

Connie L. Mason, 48, of Belleville, died Oct. 3 at home.

Among her survivors are her sisters, Janet (Randy) Smolinski of Wayne, Joanne (Bob) Elliott of Belleville, Elaine (Edward) Hardy of Florida and Lynn Elliott of

Belleville; brothers Daniel (Marsha) Mason and David Mason, all of Belleville, and several nieces and nephews.

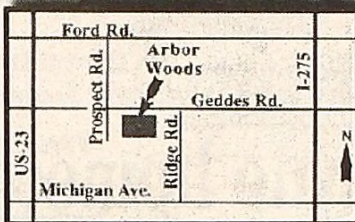
Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with the Rev. Robert J. White officiating.

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NOTICE
CITY OF ROMULUS
STREET AND ALLEY VACATION

Notice is hereby given, that the City Council of the City of Romulus has scheduled a Public Hearing to be held in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174 on Monday, October 27, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of taking testimony on the proposed vacation of the following streets and alley:

Rogers Ecorse Estates Subdivision

That portion of Hunt Street abutting Lot 9, Moore Street abutting Lots 20 and 37, Delano abutting Lots 38 and 65, Wahrman abutting Lot 76, also that portion of the alley from the east side of Delano Street to the west side of Moore Avenue abutting Lots 37 thru 49 inclusive.

Written comments may be forwarded to the attention of Linda R. Choate, CMC, City Clerk, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485, or telephone (734) 942-7540, no later than 12:00 noon, EST, October 27, 2003.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING!

Publish: October 9, 2003
October 16, 2003

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 1, 2003

Supervisor King called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor King, Clerk Payne, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Jahr and Trustee Rochowiak. Absent and excused: Trustee Hart and Trustee Herman. Others in attendance: Secretary Cline and an audience of one (1).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Budd moved, Payne seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Budd moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve Resolution 2003-35 approving the Resolution accepting the South Huron Valley Utility Authority (SHVUA) responsibility for the operation and construction of Equalization Basin. Carried.

Payne moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve Resolution 2003-36 approving the Contract and Notice of Referendum and Van Buren Charter Township's intent to pay its portion in a single payment. Carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Jahr moved, Rochowiak seconded to adjourn at 10:32 a.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

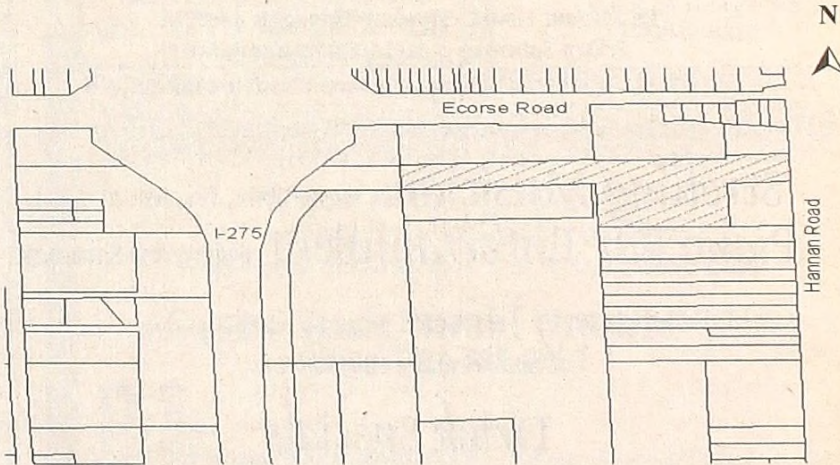
Publish: October 9, 2003

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111 on Tuesday, October 21, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. to consider Special Use approval for a Detroit Edison substation on the following described property:

This Public Hearing relates to approximately 12.9 acres, parcel numbers V125-83-045-99-0006-0022-000.

A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



This property is located adjacent to the Visteon Property which is west of Hannan Road south of Ecorse Road.

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: October 9, 2003

SPORTS

Canton Chiefs beat Franklin, remain undefeated

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Another stellar performance by Canton's backfield racked up yards and another win for the Chiefs last week.

The Chiefs shut out Franklin in the first three quarters to take home a 35-20 victory last Friday night and remained undefeated.

The rain and cold suited the Chiefs smash-mouth style of play and they rushed for more than 300 yards on the ground.

Travis McKinney rushed for 146 yards on 10 carries. Chuck Schumacher rushed for 97 yards on five carries and Devin Thomas had seven carries for 47

"We defended good against the run. They only rushed for 95 yards in the game and 60 of them were against our twos and threes in the fourth quarter."

yards, according to Canton Head Coach Tim Baechler.

The Chiefs jumped ahead in the first quarter with a 76-yard touchdown run by McKinney. Schumacher put the Chiefs up 14-0 in the first quarter with an 86-yard jaunt to the end zone. The second quarter was scoreless for both teams and the Chiefs maintained their 14-0 lead into halftime.

In the third quarter McKinney busted out another long touchdown run of 56 yards to put the Chiefs up 21-0. Thomas joined in the foray with a 20-yard run for Canton's fourth uncontested touchdown. The score was 28-0 to end the third quarter.

Andy Rossow ran in Canton's final touchdown from three yards out in the fourth quarter.

Not only did Canton run the

ball well throughout the game, they defended it well against Franklin.

"We defended good against the run," Baechler said. "They only rushed for 95 yards in the game and 60 of them were against our twos and threes in the fourth quarter."

Baechler said he sat his starters in the fourth quarter and put in back-ups and third stringers to finish out the game. However, Franklin scored their 20 points in the fourth quarter to end the game 35-20.

Although the defense played well against the run and the offense found their groove in the third quarter the team didn't

come together in all three phases of the game like they did against Stevenson the prior week, Baechler said.

"Special teams didn't do great," Baechler said. "We didn't play like we have been. We have some work to do."

"On offense, the third quarter we moved the ball well," he added. "In the first two quarters we didn't have good field position."

Canton will play their homecoming game tomorrow night against Churchill.

"We feel good going into the Churchill game," Baechler said. "Defensively they will be tough. We have to play our game."



The Plymouth Whalers have won four straight games after a disappointing 0-2 start to the season. Jeff Weber (above) recorded his first shutout of the season against the Sunbury Wolves last Saturday night.

Plymouth Whalers win four straight

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

After a disappointing season opener at Kitchener and an even more disappointing home opener against the Oshawa Generals, the Plymouth Whalers are on track, winning their last four games.

The Whalers collared the Sudbury Wolves in a 5-0 shutout last Saturday night at Compuware Arena in Plymouth.

Jeff Weber recorded his first shutout of the year as he defended against 17 shots on net.

Vaclav Meidl led the team with two goals with an assist from John Mitchell. John Vigilante scored his fourth goal of the year with an assist from Ryan Ramsay.

Mike Letizia scored his first of the season off an assist from Gino

Pisellini and rookie Dan Collins scored his first OHL goal to finish off the Wolves.

The previous night, the Whalers soundly beat the Attack 2-1 at home. Plymouth jumped ahead with a goal by Vigilante in the first minute of the game. Ramsay assisted on the goal. David Liffiton also scored in the first period to give the Whalers a 2-0 lead.

The Sound cut the lead in half with a goal from Kevin Baker in the second period.

Whalers' goalie, Paul Drew, recorded 33 saves to help Plymouth move past the first place Attack.

The Whalers' first victory came in a nicely packaged 5-2 romp of the Kingston Frontenacs. James Wisniewski and Mitchell each scored two goals on the road trip

and Jonas Fieder contributed with one goal and three assists.

The Whalers avoided the running of the Bulls in Belleville the next night for a 5-2 come-from-behind victory. Plymouth was down 2-0 through the first two periods of play but scored five unanswered goals in the third period.

Mitchell added another two goals to his resume and Tim Sestito and Ramsay each added a goal and an assist. Vigilante scored on a power play to help put the game away.

The Whalers move to 4-2 for the season and travel across the river to play Windsor tonight. Plymouth will stay on the road and play the Guelph Storm tomorrow night and return home to play the Soo Greyhounds at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Horseplay Zebras top Mustangs

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The cold and rain dampened the homecoming spirit for the Northville Mustangs' varsity football team last week.

Even though they fell behind early in the game, the Mustangs stayed in it with a late third and fourth quarter comeback. The rally fell short at the end, though and they succumbed to the Wayne Memorial Zebras in a 20-14 loss.

Wayne scored first off of a Northville punt snap that went over the kicker's head and landed in the end zone. Apselon Goode recovered the ball for the Zebras to put them up 7-0 in the first minutes of the game, according to Wayne Head Coach Craig Hnatuk.

The Zebras scored on their second possession with a 50-yard run from star tailback Tyrone Dillard to extend their lead to two touchdowns, he said.

Dillard scored his second touchdown in the first quarter on a 35-yard run to take a 20-0 lead.

The second half was messy for the Zebras. Dillard fumbled the opening kick-off and Northville recovered on the 40-yard line, said Hnatuk. Wayne held them off and forced a punt.

However, J.R. Fells fumbled the punt on the Zebras' 12-yard line and the Mustangs recovered again. This time, back-up quarterback Charlie Johnson scored on a

quarterback-sneak to put the Mustang on the board to make it a 20-7 game, according to Northville Head Coach Clint Alexander.

In the fourth quarter, a Northville kick-off was short and gave the Zebras good field position, according to Hnatuk.

Wayne quarterback, Brad Wilson ran the ball for a 25-yard gain but fumbled the ball before he could make it out of bounds, said Hnatuk. Northville recovered the third fumble of the game.

On a fourth down play, Wayne blew man-coverage, which resulted in a 69-yard touchdown pass from Thomas to Bill Brown to cut into Wayne's lead 20-14, said Alexander.

With 4:00 left in the game the Mustangs regained possession of the ball and started what would be their last drive of the game.

On a fourth-down-and-four play the Mustangs threw a pass to convert to first down, according to Alexander.

That kept the drive alive for the Mustangs and they marched the ball down to Wayne territory with 1:00 left.

With 30 seconds left in the game, Northville ran a bootleg play on a fourth-and-goal play but was knocked out on the one-foot line, said Alexander.

Wayne ran the clock out to end

See Zebras, page 18

Romulus Eagles soar over Woodhaven in 65-45 victory

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Teamwork, teamwork, teamwork.

That's what the Romulus Eagle's girls' varsity basketball team demonstrated last week in their 65-45 win over Woodhaven.

"It was our first game in a

week," said Romulus coach Rhonda McAllister. "I was glad to see that we were in game mode."

The Eagles were in winning mode, as well. Four players reached doubles including Senior center Alicia Harbor who recorded her third double-double game of the season. She scored 14 points and nabbed 14 rebounds for the

Eagles.

"It was probably her best game of the season," McAllister said. "She was able to stay out of foul trouble this week. She only had two fouls. That's really good for us because we are going to need her down the road to stay in games."

Ashley Sibby led the team with 20 points and five assists. She also

had nine rebounds, six steals and blocked two shots, McAllister said.

"She could have easily scored 30 points but she passes the ball around," she said. "She's not a selfish player. Sometimes she will be wide open but will pass the ball off. I have to get on her sometimes to shoot more."

Sibby's six steals were a major

contribution to the win.

"She capitalized on all of her steals. She went full court to score with someone on her," McAllister said. "She also had a great connection with Alicia Harbor. Alicia scored 10 points off of all five of Ashley's assists."

See Eagles, page 18

Zebras tie Central in 5-5 shootout, lose to rival Glenn

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Wayne Zebras' varsity soccer team has had a tough stretch the last two weeks, they have gone 1-1-4 in their last six games. Most recently the Zebras locked into a seesaw battle with Walled Lake Central that ended in a 5-5 tie. The first half ended in a 2-2 tie, according to Wayne Coach Larry Brenner. Wayne was down two goals with only 5:00 left in the game. The Zebras rallied with a goal from Greg Ekmeian, his fourth of the game, to move them within one of Central. Ekmeian scored two goals on penalty kicks and two other goals

off assists from Dre' Maddox, Jacob Rizkallah and Marty Stano, according to Brenner. Rex Fugaban scored the tying goal with only 50 seconds left in the game. "This was probably the best game played as a team this season," Brenner said. The tie against Central came after a physically grueling match against neighboring rival John Glenn that ended in a 2-1 loss for the Zebras. "It was a very physical game," Brenner said. "We controlled play 75 percent of the time." John Glenn scored twice in the first half to put them 2-0. "We came back on a penalty kick taken by Ekmeian after

Brain Zilka was taken down in the box," Brenner said. "We came close but couldn't finish, leaving us in a 2-1 hole." Previously, the Zebras won big on the road against Redford Thurston on Sept. 26. The Zebras defeated Thurston 5-1 with goals from Josh Shirley, Ekmeien and Marty Stano. Shirley and Ekmeien each scored two goals, according to Brenner. The defensive unit of Tyler Pyne, Dennis Hermatz, Andrew Selvia, Mike Remington, Jeremy Hardy, Jon Tennant, Justin Girouard and goal keeper Josh Fyfe held Redford to just four shots, Brenner said. Mike Fisk scored for Thurston

and their keeper Remick Underwood stopped 14 of 10 shots, according to Brenner. "We underestimated Thurston coach Dave Mytych's Eagles who were well prepared for the match up," Brenner said. "We played well enough to win but the teamwork broke down. Instead of good passes, we played more of a gun and run offense. I think our guys were looking ahead to the John Glenn game on Monday." The win was huge after coming off of a three-game losing streak. The Zebras lost 5-1 against Churchill with the only goal scored by Da'Andrea Maddox. Wayne was mercied 10-0 by Stevenson and shutout 6-0 against Salem.

"Although we were mercied by Stevenson our team played with all they had for the entire game," Brenner said. "The team rhythm just wasn't there." He said that the game was rescheduled from an earlier date and three starting defenders couldn't make it to the game. They had to realign some players and moved two starting forwards to defense. "The game against Salem was the following day and after playing with starters missing on Tuesday the guys were exhausted," Brenner said. "We lost 6-0 but again they played with everything they had until the final buzzer. I couldn't have asked for more out of the team."

Canton Chiefs' varsity basketball remains undefeated in divisional play

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Katie Cezat led the Canton Chiefs' varsity basketball team to two big divisional wins last week against Walled Lake West and Churchill. The Chiefs prevailed last Tuesday night with a 53-38 victory over Walled Lake Western. "It was pretty good game," said Canton's coach Bob Blohm. "In the second and third quarters we got on the board and made some easy shots. We attacked the zone pretty well. It was a big win for us."

Cezat led with 23 points, 14 rebounds and blocked five shots. Rachel Guastella put up 15 points and had five assists. "Defensively we played solid," Blohm said. "Team-wise we played well and rebounded well." The Chiefs defeated Churchill 63-32 on the road last Thursday to come away with another divisional win. "We came out and played a solid four quarters of basketball," Blohm said. "It was a big week for us with back-to-back divisional games." Cezat led the Chiefs again with 22 points. Lisa Ealy scored 11

points and led the team with eight rebounds. Sarah Samulski and Sarah Dimeglio each scored eight points for the Chiefs. Canton was consistent on offense and scored 14 points in the first, third and fourth quarters. The Chiefs put up 21 points in the second quarter. "We had a lot of good shots and a lot of good second shots," Blohm said. "Defensively we were real solid." The wins gave the Chiefs a four-game winning streak and an 8-2 overall record at the halfway point of the season. They remain undefeated at 3-0 in the division.

Their third divisional win was against Northville High School on Sept. 18. Canton will play Wayne and another divisional game against

Franklin this week. "I think we will be okay," Blohm said. "We're playing pretty good right now. I think we'll compete all right."

Zebras

FROM PAGE 17

the game. "Our record doesn't show it but our offensive line has done an excellent job. We've been able to run the ball well," Alexander said. "They're the reason Matt Stilec averages six yards a carry and they

only gave up two sacks." Stilec carried the ball 18 times for 111 yards. Northville finishes out the season with tough games against Walled Lake Western, Canton and Novi. The Zebra's homecoming game is tomorrow night against Salem. "We have a lot of improvements to make," Hnatuk said. "We're not good enough to just show up. We have to make improvements every week."

Eagles

FROM PAGE 17

Erika Mims also contributed in doubles with 14 points and she recorded six assists, five rebounds and three steals. Janiece Armstrong scored 13 points and had six assists and two steals in her first

game back from a non-basketball foot injury. The Eagles scored 32 points in the second half, 20 were in the third quarter. "We really started to pull away in the second half," McAllister said. "Our fast break was working well in the third and fourth quarter where we got most of our points." Romulus plays Edsel Ford, Garden City at home and goes on the road to play Dearborn next week.

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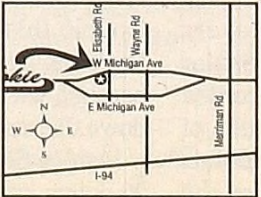
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John Glenn Rockets blast Salem Rocks in 32-7 victory

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Salem Rocks crumbled against the John Glenn Rockets in last Friday night's meeting.

The cold and rainy contest resulted in a 32-7 victory for the Rockets.

"The weather had a lot to do with it," said Salem Head Coach Bob Cummings. "We couldn't get our passing game going. It hampered us a little bit. We fell behind and couldn't catch up."

From the start, the Rockets running game, led by Matt Smitherman, took off with a rampage. Four minutes into the first quarter, Smitherman broke through the line, escaped tackles and ran 60 yards up the sideline for Glenn's first touchdown.

Salem fumbled the kickoff and the Rockets recovered on Salem's 38-yard line.

Vinnie DeLuca completed a pass to Nathan Beard to the four-yard line, which allowed Smitherman to bust through the line for his second touchdown. The extra point failed but the Rockets were up 13-0 after the first six minutes of play.

With eight minutes left in the first half, Smitherman punched in his third touchdown from two yards out. The Rockets missed on their two-point conversion attempt to make it a 19-0 game.

The Rocks got things rolling when they returned the kickoff to John Glenn's 19-yard line. They picked up 14 yards on two running plays to set them on the five-yard line. With 4:30 left in the first half, the Rocks Kevin Bradley ran in their first and only touchdown of the night to make it a 19-7 game.

Salem's defense made a stand on their 30-yard line to force John Glenn to throw on fourth-and-eleven pass that fell incomplete to end the half.

Smitherman, who had 195 yards rushing and three touchdowns in the first half, had his fourth touchdown called back on a penalty with 8:00 left in the third quarter.

Three minutes later Smitherman had a second chance and scored from two yards out. The two-point conversion pass failed to put the game at 25-7.

Salem was forced to punt again on their next possession but only kicked it out to their 22-yard line.

With three minutes left in the third DeLuca connected with Beard for a 22-yard touchdown pass. The extra point was good and the rockets went up 32-7.

The Rockets played their backups through most of the fourth quarter. Neither team scored in the final quarter to end the game 32-7.

"Defensively we didn't play very well," Cummings said. "Our offense couldn't put it in and we had a few penalties. We would just shoot ourselves in the foot."

Some of the bright spots of a dreary day were the 90

yards of kickoff returns by Brian Bradley and the 86 yards rushed by Mike Kerul. Salem's quarterback Chris Drabicki rushed for 56 yards.

The Rocks go on the road to play a very tough Wayne Memorial team.

"It doesn't get any easier for us," Cummings said. "We hurt ourselves in the beginning of the season. Those were winnable games. Now it only gets harder."

For the Rockets, Smitherman ended the game with 231 yards and four touchdowns. DeLuca threw 6-9 for 79 yards and a touchdown. Beard caught four passes for 57 yards including a touchdown.

On defense John Kimble had an interception late in the fourth quarter to help put the game away.

"Under the conditions we played a good game," said John Glenn Head Coach Chuck Gordon. "We had to make sure we took care of the ball and make sure we didn't turn it over."

"Salem moved the ball at times. It was a good job by the defense to hold them to just seven points. It was a good win for us."

The Rockets will have their hands full playing against an undefeated Walled Lake Central tomorrow night at home.

"They're a very good team," Gordon said about Walled Lake Central. "They're playing well right now - they're hitting on all cylinders."

Mustangs trample Churchill 2-0, lose to Stevenson and Salem

Northville's varsity soccer team moved into second place in their division with a 2-0 victory over Churchill last Saturday.

The Churchill game was originally scheduled for Sept. 24 but was rescheduled due to rain.

Junior Mike Kelleher scored both goals for the Mustangs and Steve Besk recorded the shutout. Phil Yutzy and Jackson Knoll had

outstanding games, also, Klimes said.

The win placed them in second in the division and they will play Stevenson for third in the conference, according to Klimes.

"It will give us another look at Stevenson before districts," he said. The Mustangs were shutout 2-0 against Stevenson earlier last week and lost against Salem 2-1

in a regular season meeting.

"We came out playing hard," said Northville Coach Henry Klimes. "We scored first and looked pretty good."

James Hannah scored on a pass from Mike Kelleher to take a 1-0 lead, Klimes said. Salem came back to score on a corner kick to tie it up, he said.

Salem scored again on a

penalty kick in the second half with 15 minutes remaining in the game to move them up 2-1.

In other recent games, Justin Lockwood scored a hat trick as part of an 8-0 shutout against Franklin.

Mike Blasius scored two goals for the 'Stangs. Josh O'Connor had a goal as well as Hannah and Jackson Knoll, according to

Klimes.

Matt Molonio stepped his game up a notch in the shutout.

"He has really improved - his play has picked up," Klimes said. "He's really trying to jump into the starting lineup."

Besk recorded the shutout for the Mustangs.

The Mustangs will play Walled Lake Northern on Saturday.

Rocks roll over Canton, Walled Lake Western

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Salem Rocks continued their winning streak last week against rival Canton in a 5-3 victory.

Salem swept the Chiefs in the singles competition. At number-one, Alex Ware defeated Hitomi Shiroda 6-2, 6-1. Missy Nelson beat Beth Treadwell 6-1, 6-0; Maranon Swasey won against Lauren Kazmeirczak, 6-0, 6-3; and Katie Waldeck overpowered Natalie Slupek 6-2, 6-4.

Canton's number-one doubles team of Chelsea Darwoir and Sarah Galnate defeated Mo Bohr and Sarah Jose in 6-3, 6-0 sets. The Chiefs' Meena Masan and Jimin Lim toughed it out against Katie Girsakis and Jordan Falcusan 6-3, 6-2 and Julia Fabiszewski and Laura McKendry

defeated Reevea and Shailee Patel 6-2, 7-6.

The Rocks' number-four team of Erica Shy and Michele Cilia overcame Canton's Caitlin Staples and Renee McGregor in difficult 7-5, 7-5 sets to win the match for Salem, according to Ware.

The Rocks ended their regular season with an 8-0 shutout against Walled Lake Western to move their record to 8-3.

Alex Ware beat Reva Berman 6-1, 6-3 at the number-one position. At number two, Nelson defeated Jayshee Mahaja 6-2, 6-1.

Number-three singles player, Swasey lost her first set to Jessica Beard 1-6 but bounced back to overtake Beard 6-2, 6-4 in her final two sets. Waldeck had close wins against Erin Goldman with 6-4, 6-3 sets.

The doubles teams rallied back after losses to Canton to sweep Western in the competition.

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On their way

Romulus Cross Country Coach Ken Beasley (left) and his team wait outside Romulus High School on their way to a meet. Team members are (from left): Michael Hudson, Darnell Anderson, Darryl Vesey, Courtney Davis, Adrian Simons, Jeremiah Yeager, Josh Zirkle and David Rogala. Yeager's 18:03 and Simons 18:26 are the low times for the team this season.

Vikings' football frustrations continue

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Inkster Vikings' varsity football team fell last week in a 36-0 homecoming loss to an undefeated Taylor Kennedy.

Kennedy scored all of their 36 points in the first half, said Inkster Head Coach Craig James.

"I'm frustrated," he said. "The biggest difference between the teams wasn't the size of the school or physical ability - their kids show up to practice. Our kids always miss and we have to sit them in the game. It's frustrating."

"We have good kids, about 70 percent of them are there all of the

time. And then there's 30 percent that put the team second to whatever is going on in their lives. I feel bad for the 70 percent because they have to count on the others."

Among the players that show up to practice all the time and prove it with strong games are Andre Lynn and Michael Willingham, James said.

"They don't put up a lot of numbers but they're there all of the time," James said. "They play with heart."

The Vikings did look promising against neighbor rivals the Dearborn Heights Robichaud Bulldogs the previous week.

Inkster lost in overtime 26-18,

but they put up a good fight.

Senior quarterback Charles Jefferson led the Vikings with 125 passing yards and 270 rushing yards and scored all three of their touchdowns.

His first score was a 22-yard touchdown run.

He connected with wide receivers Milton Hunter and Justin Schaffer for the other two touchdowns.

In overtime, the Vikings couldn't get anything going and Robichaud scored to put the game away.

The Vikings play tomorrow night against a struggling Berkley team that knocked them out of the playoffs last year.

Robichaud defeats Plymouth

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Robichaud girls' varsity basketball team had a huge 45-28 win against the Plymouth High School Wild Cats last week. It was their first game in two weeks.

"We played very well," said coach Warren Woods. "We had two weeks off because of scheduling and I thought we played pretty good. We were ready - the girls played a fantastic."

Senior Mary Riley led Robichaud with 23 points. Riley went on a scoring spree in the second quarter where she scored 11 of her points, according to Woods.

"Teams are going at her with three players at a time," he said. "She still puts up good numbers."

Riley had a great defense game as well with 10 rebounds and seven steals.

"In order for us to win we need that from her, even if she has to lighten up on the scoring," Woods said. "We need other players to contribute."

"She tries to help other players out by passing them the ball but they have a hard time finishing it," he added.

Freshman Britney Smiley did step up in the win last week. She scored 14 points, which included four three-pointers - three of those were in a row, said Woods.

Robichaud held Plymouth to only one point in the first quarter for a 10-1 lead. They had a huge second quarter with 18 points to lead 28-9 at the half.

Both teams scored 17 points in the second half but that wasn't enough for Plymouth and Robichaud walked away with the victory.

"That's what we needed was a victory," Woods said. "We were coming off some tough losses. We have to build off this one. It's been tough so far but I hope we'll learn from all the bumps and bruises. I feel optimistic going into the conference."

Robichaud was unable to keep the momentum in the dual against Annapolis.

"They did a good job on Mary (Riley)," Woods said. "They were prepared to play us. They saw us a few times and they were ready."

Riley still put up 21 points in the 54-46 loss to Annapolis. Shakira Patillo added 10 and Smiley contributed with nine.

Annapolis star, Beckey Lemaire, scored 22 in the first half. Robichaud was able to contain her in the second half and held her to just four points, according to Woods.

Robichaud had a slow start and had trouble from the line and made only 7-18 shots, according to Woods. They outscored Annapolis 17-16 in a fourth quarter surge but were unable to catch up.

"We played hard and we're learning and I've learned more from losing than I have from winning - we're just not where we're supposed to be," he said. "We're getting there, though."

Robichaud is scheduled to play Carlson tonight on the road.

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